the competent specialists in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) CAPART has sanctioned four projects on herbal medicine. The objectives of the projects are; setting up of Central Medicinal Garden for growing Ayurvedic plants, training of village women to utilise Herbs and to establish a regular dialogue with the local traditional health practitioners by organising training camps etc. so that the use of herbal medicine could be propagated. The amount released during the last three years is approximately Rs. 42 lakh.

(b) Agencies having expertise, experience and infrastructure for carrying out research are provided financial assistance for propagating herbal medicine.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The project holders are required to submit six monthly progress reports and the funds are released only if the progress is found satisfactory. The projects are also monitored by sending experts and accounting monitors to the project areas.

Miraj-Bangalore Broad Gauge Conversion Project

*66. **SHRI J.P. JAVALI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Asian Development Bank has evinced interest in financing the foreign exchange component of the Konkan Railway Line; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the financing of Miraj-Bangalore Broad Gauge conversion project on the same basis as that of Konkan Railway project with the improvement in resource position?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of additional edible oils to Gujarat

*67. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat have demanded the supply of more edible oils;

(b) if so, what was the month-wise demand of the state for edible oils for the last six months;

(c) what was the month-wise quantity of edible oils supplied to Gujarat during the last six months; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of edible oils which have already reached sky-high?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The demand of the state Government, allocation made to the State lifting of edible oil by the State during the last six months was as under:-

(Qty. in MTs)

Months	Demand	Allocation	Lifting
February 90	16500	1600	84
March, 90	15000	2600	3168
April, 90	10000	4600	4938
May, 90	16000	6550	6225
June, 90	16500	8000	5437
July, 90	16500	9500	7500

(d) The overall allocation of edible oil for PDS has been increased to 85,000 MTs in August, 1990 from 40000 MTs in April, 1990. This increase in allocation is likely to continue for a couple of months to cope with the enhanced requirement of the festival months. This increase in